

OPINION 1241

CAENOLESTIDAE TROUESSART, 1898 AND
PALAEOTHENTIDAE SINCLAIR, 1906 (MAMMALIA):
CONSERVED

RULING.— (1) Under the plenary powers it is hereby ruled that the family-group names ABDERITIDAE Ameghino, 1889, GARZONIIDAE Ameghino, 1891, and DECASTIDAE Ameghino, 1893 are not to be given priority over the family-group names CAENOLESTIDAE Trouessart, 1898 and PALAEOTHENTINAE Sinclair, 1906.

(2) The following generic names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) *Caenolestes* Thomas, 1895 (gender: masculine), type species, through *Hyracodon* Tomes 1863, *non* Leidy, 1856, *Hyracodon fuliginosus* Tomes, 1863 (Name Number 2179);
- (b) *Palaeothentes* Ameghino, 1887 (gender: masculine), type species, by subsequent designation by Clemens & Marshall, 1976, *Palaeothentes aratae* Ameghino, 1887, (Name Number 2180);
- (c) *Abderites* Ameghino, 1887 (gender: masculine), type species, by original designation, *Abderites meridionalis* Ameghino, 1887 (Name Number 2181);
- (d) *Garzonina* Ameghino, 1891 (gender: feminine), type species, under Article 68b, *Garzonina typica* Ameghino, 1891 (currently treated as a junior subjective synonym of *Stilotherium* Ameghino, 1887) (Name Number 2182);
- (e) *Decastis* Ameghino, 1891 (gender: feminine), type species, by original designation, *Decastis columnaris* Ameghino, 1891 (currently treated as a junior subjective synonym of *Dipilus* Ameghino, 1890) (Name Number 2183).

(3) The following specific names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) *fuliginosus* Tomes, 1863, as published in the binomen *Hyracodon fuliginosus* (specific name of type species of *Caenolestes* Thomas, 1895) (Name Number 2839);
- (b) *aratae* Ameghino, 1887, as published in the binomen *Palaeothentes aratae* (specific name of type species of *Palaeothentes* Ameghino, 1887) (Name Number 2840);
- (c) *meridionalis* Ameghino, 1887, as published in the binomen *Abderites meridionalis* (specific name of type species of *Abderites* Ameghino, 1887) (Name Number 2841);
- (d) *typica* Ameghino, 1891, as published in the binomen *Garzonina typica* (specific name of type species of *Garzonina* Ameghino, 1891) (Name Number 2842);
- (e) *columnaris* Ameghino, 1891, as published in the binomen

Decastis columnaris (specific name of type species of *Decastis* Ameghino, 1891) (Name Number 2843).

(4) The following family-group names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology with the endorsements and Name Numbers specified:

- (a) CAENOLESTIDAE Trouessart, 1898 (type genus *Caenolestes* Thomas, 1895) to be given nomenclatural precedence over ABDERITIDAE Ameghino, 1889, GARZONIIDAE Ameghino, 1891 and DECASTIDAE Ameghino, 1893 (Name Number 549);
- (b) PALAEOTHENTINAE Sinclair, 1906 (type genus *Palaeothentes* Ameghino, 1887) to be given nomenclatural precedence over ABDERTIDAE Ameghino, 1889, GARZONIIDAE Ameghino, 1891 and DECASTIDAE Ameghino, 1893 (Name Number 550);
- (c) ABDERITINAE Ameghino, 1889 (type genus *Abderites* Ameghino, 1887), not to be given priority over CAENOLESTIDAE Trouessart, 1898 or PALAEOTHENTIDAE Sinclair, 1906 (Name Number 551);
- (d) GARZONIIDAE Ameghino, 1891 (type genus, *Garzonnia* Ameghino, 1891), not to be given priority over CAENOLESTIDAE Trouessart, 1898 or PALAEOTHENTIDAE Sinclair, 1906 (Name Number 552);
- (e) DECASTIDAE Ameghino, 1893 (type genus *Decastis* Ameghino, 1891), not to be given priority over CAENOLESTIDAE Trouessart, 1898 or PALAEOTHENTIDAE Sinclair, 1906 (Name Number 553).

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.) 2214

An application concerning a number of family-group names of South American mammals was first received from Dr Larry G. Marshall (*Princeton University, U.S.A.*) in his own name and that of Dr Richard H. Tedford (*American Museum of Natural History, New York*) on 2 February 1977. After an exchange of correspondence a revised application was sent to the printer on 16 February 1978 and published on 31 July 1978 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 35, pp. 58–64. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was given to the statutory journals, to seven general periodicals and two specialist periodicals. No comments were received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 25 February 1982 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1982)12 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 35, pp. 61–63. At the close of the voting period on 25 May 1982 the state of the voting

was as follows:

Affirmative Votes—sixteen (16) received in the following order: Melville, Alvarado, Mroczkowski, Starobogatov, Willink, Trjapitzin, Tortonese, Halvorsen, Vokes, Habe, Bayer, Welch, Brinck, Nye, Hahn, Kraus

Negative Votes—four (4): Holthuis, Sabrosky, Heppell, Lehtinen.

Cogger abstained. Corliss sent in a late affirmative vote. Ride was on leave of absence. No votes were returned by Bernardi, Binder and Dupuis.

The following comments were sent in by members of the Commission with their voting papers:

Holthuis: 'Evidently the classification of the group is not settled. Also usage seems not to be uniform (para 4). A strict application of the Law of Priority might be best in such a case. Is not the correct spelling of DECASTIDAE DECASTIDIDAE?'. [To this last point the honorary classical adviser, Mr C. W. Wright, replied: 'I can find no evidence that *Decastis* is a Latin or Greek word (like you I suspect that it was formed from a personal name) so its stem must be decided by analogy. The majority of Latin nouns ending in -is have a grammatical stem in -i; in the present instance the grammatical stem would be *decasti*- and the genitive singular *decast-is*. The family name would thus be DECASTIDAE. Similar instances are *avis* and *collis* in Table 2 of Appendix D to the Code. Common Latin nouns ending in -stis that would give the same result are *hostis*, *fustis*, *postis*. Only rather few Latin nouns ending in -is have a stem ending in -d like *lapis*, *lapidis*, would give LAPIDIDAE. I have no hesitation in advising that *Decastis* produced the family name DECASTIDAE']

Cogger: 'I abstain from voting on this proposal: there are insufficient data in the application.'

Sabrosky: 'Sinclair, 1906, erred several times in using the youngest name over several senior synonyms and I cannot agree to approve that. From the facts submitted, it appears that EPANORTHIDAE has the best claim for retention (Thomas, 1895; Osborn, 1910; Winge, 1923; Scott, 1937). *Epanorthis* and EPANORTHIDAE have nomenclatural status of their own, even though the former was an unnecessary replacement name.'

Heppell: 'The statement by the applicants that "... EPANORTHIDAE is invalid because it is based on *Epanorthus*, an invalid replacement name" does not seem to be supported by Article 40. I might support an alternative solution to the applicants' problems, if one less nomenclaturally cumbersome could be devised, but I suspect there are too many "taxonomic concepts that are quite unacceptable" offered here in the guise of nomenclature. I would have preferred to leave this and other such cases until after the discussion of general problems of family-group names at the Commission's meeting in Ottawa.' [Owing to pressure of time, this subject was not discussed at Ottawa. R.V.M.].

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Abderites Ameghino, 1887, *Bol. Mus. de la Plata*, vol. 1, p. 5

ABDERITIDAE Ameghino, 1889, *Actas Acad. Cienc. Cordoba*, vol. 6, pp. 268, 269

aratae, *Palaeothentes*, Ameghino, 1887, *Bol. Mus. de la Plata*, vol. 1, p. 5

Caenolestes Thomas, 1895, *Proc. zool. Soc. London* for 1895, p. 875

CAENOLESTIDAE Trouessart, 1898, *Catalogus Mammalium tam viventium quam fossilium*, new ed., Berlin, p. 1205

columnaris, *Decastis*, Ameghino, 1891, *Rev. arg. Hist. nat.*, vol. 1, p. 305

Decastis Ameghino, 1891, *Rev. arg. Hist. nat.*, vol. 1, p. 19

DECASTIDAE Ameghino, 1893, *Rev. gen. Sci. (Paris)*, vol. 4, p. 79

fuliginosus, *Hyracodon*, Tomes, 1863, *Proc. zool. Soc. London* for 1863, pl. 8, p. 51

Garzonia Ameghino, 1891, *Rev. arg. Hist. nat.*, vol. 1, p. 21

GARZONIIDAE Ameghino, 1891, *Rev. arg. Hist. nat.*, vol. 1, pp. 304, 307

meridionalis, *Abderites*, Ameghino, 1887, *Bol. Mus. de la Plata*, vol. 1, p. 5

Palaeothentes Ameghino, 1887, *Bol. Mus. de la Plata*, vol. 1, p. 5

PALAEOTHENTIDAE Sinclair, 1906, *Rep. Princeton Univ. Exped. Patagonia*, vol. 4, p. 417

typica, *Garzonia*, Ameghino, 1891, *Rev. arg. Hist. nat.*, vol. 1, p. 307

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the votes cast on V.P.(82)12 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1241.

R. V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

27 September 1982